

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME III.

FORT WAYNE, IND., SEPTEMBER, 1891.

NUMBER 9.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Recently the pastor has called the attention of the members of Grace Church to the cause of Foreign Missions. Our foreign missionary work is centered at Sendai, Japan. Thus far this work of the church has been blessed of God, and has prospered beyond all expectation. The funds invested and the work done by our efficient and self-denying missionaries has been bringing forth a harvest of a hundred fold. It is sad indeed, however, to learn that the church at home fails now to be willing to furnish the funds necessary to meet the demands of this cause, and to carry on the work which has been begun with so much promise. Can it be possible that our Reformed Church with its abundance of ability shall be willing to see this work suffer, and our Board continue in its present embarrassment. We have rejoiced to see the members of Grace Church respond to the pleas of the pastor in behalf of this cause. We hope that our people will remember that offerings may be brought every Sabbath and placed in the missionary box, while the last Sabbath of each month has been designated as a day of special offerings for Foreign Missions. We publish herewith an appeal made to the church at the beginning of the year by the missionaries in Japan, also an appeal recently made to the church by the Board of Foreign Missions. These appeals will speak for themselves. We beg the members of Grace Church and our friends to read these appeals carefully and prayerfully and then act as the Lord may prompt their hearts.

APPEAL FROM THE MISSIONARIES AT SENDAI, JAPAN.

The Missionaries of the Reformed Church in the United States to Japan are alarmed at the fact that the Board of Foreign Missions has not been able for some time to meet the necessary expenses of our work. We are aware that a debt of \$5,000 has been incurred on the responsibility of individual members of the Board; and that unless the income for Foreign Missions is increased, and prompt means of relief taken, they will be obliged to incur an additional debt,

or else we and our work must greatly suffer.

As to ourselves, unless we receive our personal support promptly, we are placed under circumstances of difficulty and of the greatest embarrassment. We are strangers in a strange and foreign land. We dare not look for sympathy and aid to those around us, for they are not in a position to help us; and, besides, they have no sympathy with us, because we are foreigners and the representatives of a religion they despise. The business men in the open ports as a rule have no sympathy with missionaries, so that in times of distress we could not look to them for aid. And as for the other Missions operating in Japan, they are supposed to care only for their own members, and that is about all they can do.

We cannot, even if we would, engage in other business as a means of support. We are aliens in Japan, and as such are entirely dependent upon the Church at home which has sent us here; and if its support fails us, then we are not only embarrassed, but exposed to great suffering. But it is not for ourselves alone, and for our families, but also for the work and its proper maintenance that we plead. This work which has already cost the church so much money, and the missionaries so much labor and anxiety, must be promptly supported or else go down. If in the last five years our work has grown to the extent of requiring more missionaries and more money to maintain it, this would seem to be the best indication that it has not been a failure and is the best reason why it should be supported with renewed zeal and still greater liberality on the part of the church. In its present form and dimensions it is the outcome of a policy conscientiously adopted as the best under all the circumstances. And the blessing of the Lord upon the labors of his servants has fully demonstrated the wisdom of our policy. Shall this successful and highly encouraging work be properly maintained? is a question which addresses itself to every member of the Reformed Church. There is, there can be, no alternative. The work in its

present form and dimensions must be maintained or it is doomed; and we, your missionaries, so far as our influence and prestige go, are doomed with it.

We feel that we have reached a crisis, and that unless the whole Church comes up promptly to the aid of our Board, so that liberal contributions flow into the foreign treasury, no one can calculate the harm that will be done. And the reproach that will fall upon the Church, in consequence, will be very great. Is there any just reason for the present state of things? Can any one justly claim that it is a want of ability on the part of the Church? Is not our large and growing Church with her more than two hundred thousand members abundantly able to sustain us?

To ask the question is to answer it. We appeal, therefore, to the church at large. We appeal to every pastor and to each individual member, whether male or female. We beseech you in the name of the great Head of the Church who said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." We beseech you in the name of our holy religion, which is not only a home, but likewise a foreign missionary religion, that you come up to the speedy help of this work of the Lord. The church at home and the mission on the field have all the encouragement that success brings with it. Once more, "Let every one do something for the Japan Mission, and do it speedily." We suggest that a day be appointed when in every church and Sunday-school a collection be taken, the money to be used for the relief of the Board in its present embarrassment.

(Signed):

J. P. MOORE,

W. E. HOY.

D. B. SCHNEDER.

LIZZIE R. POORBAUGH,

EMMA F. POORBAUGH.

Sendai, Japan.

THE FOREIGN BOARD'S EMBARRASSMENT.

The complications and difficulties of the Board of Foreign Missions, seem to be increasing rather than diminishing. The response which

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REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - Editor.

Board of Managers; REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

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the appeal from our missionaries, made to the church last winter, called forth for two or three months, was reassuring. But a sad reaction has followed, and now the receipts of the Board are insufficient to meet current expenses. The announcement of the inadequacy of the receipts to cover running expenses is certainly coming to be annoying to the Board, whatever may be its effect upon the sensibilities of our church. We have been struggling to avoid the necessity of curtailing our work in Japan, not to mention our inability to enter new doors of usefulness which God in His Providence, is from time to time opening to us.

A few months since the Board did venture an advance step, when Brother Moore was asked to enter a Government School of some five or six hundred scholars, as a teacher to a limited extent. Previously these schools had persistently discarded the missionaries, and the entrance of Brother Moore was regarded as a new conquest, by the missionaries of other churches, as well as our own. In a short time he was enabled to form a private class from among the scholars, for religious instruction. He was happy in securing the favor of the Japanese authorities, and the outlook was bright and promising.

When Bro. Moore notified the authorities of his intended visit to America, they applied to our mission to furnish them a person to take his place in the school. Our missionaries all joined in a petition to the Board to send out another missionary for this purpose. The Board carefully and prayerfully considered the request. But what could it do? With deep and painful regret we were compelled to refuse the request. Quite recently letters have come to hand, written since the refusing word reached our missionaries. To read these letters is painful—it is really distressing. Poor souls, they are almost crushed with disappointment—they are almost disheartened. They are laboring, almost beyond their strength, and when they succeed in gaining space for an advance step, the parsimony of the home church forbids

them taking that step. Worse still, the advance step taken in faith, in case of the Government School, they find themselves compelled to retrace. And they are growing discouraged.

Yes, brethren in the church, we have been compelled to do what we as a Board have deprecated in public, and begged the church to save us from the necessity of doing—we have been compelled to contract, and to recede in our work. We call God to witness that we have begged the church for the necessary means to hold our own and to go forward. And up to this date a favorable response has been withheld. Is it possible that we must still further contract our work, so as to arrest the increase of our indebtedness? Is it possible that our Reformed Church cannot, no, will not, exceed the average of eight and a half cents a member a year, and this sadly small average being contributed by a comparatively few? The majority of our congregations and members are not giving one cent to save heathen souls. "Forasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these, ye did it not unto me."

S. N. CALLENDER, Sec'y.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. THE TEACHER'S PREPARATION.

All good work in every department of activity, requires training and preparation. But there are many good reasons why the Sunday school teacher especially, should be fully prepared to meet his class.

It requires very careful and prayerful preparation to make the best and wisest use of the few moments allotted to the teaching of the lesson, to know what to teach, and how to teach it, to waste no time to impart what is most important or best adapted to the scholars need, as a whole week must pass with its effacing influence upon the truth so hastily taught.

Scholars are generally not required to study the lesson, and hence come unprepared, therefore the teacher needs to be the more thoroughly prepared. He must awaken interest, inspire thought that leads to inquiry. In order to give power to his teaching he must know ten facts for every one he presents to his class. The themes of the lessons are of vast importance, as they relate to the well being of the scholars in this life and the life to come. They deal with questions which have occupied the thought of the greatest thinkers, and wisest of men of all ages. They require a knowl-

edge of the Bible, and no person should attempt to teach them unless he has made an effort to understand them.

"The noblest work on earth is to train a soul for Heaven, and no small part of this is done by the faithful Sunday-school teacher." There is much greater responsibility upon him who instructs in the truth of God than he who teaches in the secular school.

The Sunday-school teacher should aim to ascertain the meaning of God's word, and find what is "the mind of the spirit." He should try to satisfy his own spiritual needs, so that he may know what will satisfy other hungry and thirsty souls. He should aim to supply the needs of his scholars. He should find something in every lesson which is adapted to the varied and specific wants of each scholar in his care.

The Sunday-school teacher should know the time to which each lesson belongs, its period in history, the place of the lesson, the persons, facts, difficulties and doctrines of the lesson.

In every lesson there is one central thought, which the teacher should seek after, and make the basis of his teaching.

The teacher should prepare a plan of teaching, and know before he opens his Bible before his class what line of thought he will present, and what shall be his method of applying it to every scholar in his class.

No teacher is prepared to go before his class unless he has first gone before God on bended knees and invoked the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in his work. S—.

MARRIAGES AT THE PARSONAGE.

Saturday Evening Aug. 29th, Jasper E. Wolf, and Minnie Walles.

Thursday afternoon Sept. 3rd, Charles G. Beard, and Katie Flaugh.

These young people are all residents of Fort Wayne and vicinity, and will make this city their future home. While they are not members of Grace Church they have been frequent attendants, and we shall hope to see them often at our services hereafter. The Visitor wishes them a happy and prosperous future.

Rev. G. H. Souder and little daughter, of Bellevue, Ohio, visited with the family of Elder D. W. Souder for a few days in the latter part of August. Rev. Souder will entertain the Ohio Synod in his church in the month of October.

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BRIEF AND PERSONAL.

Children's Day, Sept. 27th.

The quarterly communion service will be held Sabbath morning Oct. 4th.

Save your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, for an offering on Children's Day, Sept. 27.

Eugene Mathis recently spent a week with friends at Detroit. He says he had a very pleasant visit.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kirkham were in the city on Labor Day. It is probable that they may soon again make Fort Wayne their home.

The pastor's family has been kindly remembered within the last month by many of the members, with baskets of delicious fruits. Many thanks.

Thursday, Sept. 10th, in company with Mrs. S. Miller and daughter, Gloe, the pastor and family spent the day with Mrs. Miller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Null, residing some three miles east of New Haven. We spent the day very pleasantly indeed. Mr. and Mrs. Null are old residents of the community in which they live, and are very pleasant people. We shall be glad to visit them again at some future day.

Georgia Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, was baptized by the pastor, Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 8th. Mr. and Mrs. Miller united

with Grace Church last winter. You will find them pleasant people. Go and see them at their new home, 155 Wallace street.

Grace Church will observe children's Day, Sabbath Sept. 27th. The church will be decorated with fruits, flowers, etc. In the morning the pastor will preach a sermon to the children, and in the evening the children of the Sunday-school will give an entertainment. The children of the Sunday-school, and the members and friends of the church will be supplied with special envelopes for their offerings on that day. The Lord has given unto us abundantly, let us bring a liberal offering unto Him.

A committee from the Women's Society is out soliciting with the view of having each lady of the church earn a dollar for the Society. At a social which is to be held about the middle of October, the ladies are to report, and tell how they have earned their dollars. If through some oversight of the committee some lady of the church should fail to be canvassed, please let this notice serve as a solicitation. Get your dollar ready and report when the time comes. It is difficult for this committee to see every one. Dollar surprises are always very acceptable.

The annual excursion to Rome City August 19th was a success in every particular. The arrangements were complete, and the day was all that could be wished for. The number of excursionists was larger than in former years. Every person was happy, and had a good time. Very many remained for the late train. It was certainly delightful to be out on the lake after sunset, taking a moonlight ride. We are inclined to believe that those who returned on the early train made a mistake. We were sorry indeed that not all of the members and friends of the church could arrange to go along and enjoy the day with us. Life must not necessarily all be made up of hard work. A day taken now and then for recreation and social enjoyment will serve as an excellent curative for wearied limbs and exhausted nerves and brains and for aching hearts. Such pleasant changes will act as a wholesome spice for life, and will tend to lengthen man's days in the land of the living. In the future let every member of the church go along with the excursion. The net receipts of the excursion amounted to \$50. A very handsome little sum to put in the hands of our church treasurer.

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Y. P. S. C. E. PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS AND LEADERS.

Sept. 13—"Are We Blind Also?" John 9: 40, 41: II. Cor. 4: 4; Rev. 8: 17, 18. Kate Vordermark.

Sept. 20—"The Shepherd Lord: His Faithfulness, Tenderness, Strength." John 10: 27, 28; Isa. 40: 4-11. Lillie Vordermark.

Sept. 27—Consecration meeting. "Sowing the Seed." Eccl. 11: 6; Isa. 32: 20; John 4: 36. Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

Oct. 4—"The Master Is Come and Calleth for Thee." II Tim. 1: 8, 9; Rom. 1: 6; Eph. 4: 1. A. K. Zartman.

Oct. 11—"Walking as Children of Light." John 12: 35, 36: 8: 12; Matt. 5: 14-16. John Vordermark.

Oct. 18—"Not to Be Ministed Unto, but to Minister." Matt. 40: 26, 28; Rom. 12: 10. D. W. Souder.

Oct. 25—"Our Father's House." John 14: 2-4; I. Cor. 2: 9, 10; II. Cor. 5: 1. Nannie Bandel.

Arno C. Katt, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Katt, died Tuesday morning, Aug. 18th, after a brief illness of but a few days. Aged 4 years, 2 months and 8 days. Arno was a very affectionate child, a true comfort and joy to the parents' heart. But his life was brief, even as a flower of rarest beauty and fragrance. It pleased the Heavenly Parent to take him unto Himself while yet in the first hour of the morning. It is not possible for us always to divine the thoughts and ways of the Lord. His ways are past finding out. But what we may not know now we shall know hereafter. It remains for us only to kiss the smiting rod and with confiding heart bow to the will of the Master, having the promise that all shall be well. Little Arno has only gone before to the home above, where by and by loved ones shall meet to part no more.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by his love o'er-shaded
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

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